(d) The estimated time for completion of the proposed construction of the new Integrated Passenger Terminal is 24 months from the date of award of the work.

City-side development of non-metro airports

290. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up city-side development of non-metro airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Orissa Government has written to the Centre for inclusion of Bhubaneshwar Airport as well in the list, as Bhubaneshwar has emerged as one of the fastest growing cities in the country, which is reflected in the rapid growth of its air-traffic; and

(d) if so, the status thereof, indicating the time-frame within which it would also be taken up for city-side development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has identified 24 non-metro airports for city side development through Public Private Partnership (PPP), including the Bhubaneshwar airport. In the first phase 5 airports, including the Bhubaneshwar airport, have been taken up for city side development.-

Expansion of runway at Madurai airport

291. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in completion of the work on the expansion of runway and other areas at Madurai Airport; and

(b) by when the expansion work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The main reasons for the delay in the completion of operational works at Madurai airport were - unprecedented price rise of construction materials after award of work, restricted work hours due to operational requirements, heavy rains during tenancy of the contract, extended monsoon/rainy season and restriction by Government of Tamil Nadu on quarries of sand and stone aggregate.

(b) The targetted date for completion of the work is 30th September, 2007.

Income of Indian

292. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air passenger number is increasing every year, at the same time the income of Indian is decreasing during the last five years, period; and

(b) if so, what actions have been taken to enhance the income of Indian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Both, number of passengers and passenger revenue has been increasing during the last five years.

(b) Indian" Airlines has taken a number of steps like introduction of multiple fare schemes, revision of fares, optimum utilisation of aircraft etc. to further enhance its income.

Airline services to foreign country from Madurai airport

293. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

. (a) whether there is any proposal to operate service to foreign countries from Madurai Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the existing Air Services Agreement between India and other countries, Madurai does not figure as a point of call for the designated airlines of foreign countries.

Indian carriers are free to operate international services from any point in India subject to compliance of guidelines and commercial viability. However, so far, no airline operation has proposed to operate international services from Madurai.

Merchant airports

†294. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to follow, build and operate policy for construction of new airports in the country now;

(b) whether it is also being considered to allow the private companies to build and operate such airports without any interference of Government under the policy named as merchant airports; and

(c) the details of the decision taken in this regard by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The extant policy on Airport Infrastructure facilitates construction of new Greenfield airports in public or private sectors or to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.